

THE

Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station



# FLYOVER

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Vol. 47 No. 4  
April/May 2008



## Wings Over Pittsburgh 2008

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this year

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<http://www.pittsburgh.afrc.af.mil>

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## On the Cover...

### Wings Over Pittsburgh

After seven years, year number eight promises to be one of the best year's ever. The line-up may sound strange; from snowbirds, to raptors or even leapfrogs many already know these names to be among the finest when it comes to a performance like no other. May 10 and 11, don't miss it! (Art by Senior Airman Lou Burton, 911th Public Affairs)





## This year's air show a celebration indeed



Last year the Wings Over Pittsburgh Air show was on Father's Day weekend. This year we have the opportunity to honor all the area mothers by presenting the best air show on Mother's Day weekend. We are also commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve Command, the 250th Anniversary of Pittsburgh and also remembering the significance of the Berlin Airlift on their 60th Anniversary.

This is the 911th Airlift Wing's eighth air show and personally my fourth, but still a year of many firsts. This is the first time the 911th AW will be hosting the Canadian Snowbirds, the first time having the F-22, and most importantly for convenience, the first time Business Rt. 60 will remain open throughout the entire show.

This year's air show will take place May 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the gates closing at 3 p.m. This is a FREE, family-friendly event so make sure you tell all your family, friends, and neighbors because this is one event that you can easily afford to attend.

Wings Over Pittsburgh is our way of thanking the community for their tremendous support. They give us so much here at the 911th AW and this is our way of giving back. We at the 911th AW could never do this show alone. It takes many hands to make it happen. The air show is a partnership between the 911th AW, Pittsburgh International Airport, and local authorities. We thank our many volunteers—Navy, Marines, Army, Pitt ROTC, North Allegheny High School AF JROTC, our Civil Air Patrol cadets, and others for helping us make it all possible.

We in the 911th AW Mission Support Group are going to have a major role in this year's show. I am very proud of the assistance the Mission Support Group provides in making this happen, from all the preplanning to trash pick-up or parking cars.

Over the past eight years, Wings Over Pittsburgh has grown into one of the best air show events in the U.S. A complete list of performers and static displays, transportation, and parking information can be found on our website at [www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com](http://www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com) and visit the site often for the most up-to-date information. There's bound to be a lot of action this year so don't miss it and we'll see you at the show.



  
CYNTHIA A. WONG, Lt Col, USAFR  
Mission Support Group Commander

# Command post, NCO, Airman honored

## Air Force Reserve Command recognizes command post with three top level awards

by Senior Airman Tamara Cario,  
Public Affairs

For the second year in a row, Tech. Sgt. Milo Speranzo, the chief of the command post with the 911th Airlift Wing, has won the Air Force Reserve Command, Command and Control Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award.

In addition, Senior Airman Matthew Wolfe, a junior command post controller with the 911th AW, won the 2007 AFRC Command and Control Airman of the Year Award.

Senior Airman Wolfe credits his supervisors for his award. "They gave me the chance to excel where at other places I may not have had the same opportunities," he said.

This is the second year in a row the 911th AW Command Post has won the 22nd Air Force



(photo by Senior Airman Tamara Cario)

Senior Airman Matthew Wolfe (right), a junior command post controller with the 911th Airlift Wing, trains with Technical Sgt. Milo Speranzo, the chief of the command post with the 911th AW. Sgt. Speranzo and Senior Airman Wolfe each won a 2007 Air Force Reserve Command Award.

Command and Control Command Post of the Year Award.

Their award submission was based on their quick response to the Utah and West Virginia mine collapses, the California wild fires, and their support of headquarters Air Mobility Command missions.

"Without exception, they are the best at what they do in AFRC and the Air force," said Maj. Geibel, officer in charge of the 911th AW Command Post.

To receive AFRC Command and Control Awards, both Tech. Sgt. Speranzo and Senior Airman Wolfe had to first compete at 22nd Air Force level, where they competed with other Command Posts in 22nd Air Force. Next, Tech. Sgt. Speranzo and Senior Airman Wolfe competed against winners from 4th and 10th Air Force to win at the AFRC level.

Since its inception into AFRC, this is the first time there has been a back-to-back winner of the Command and Control NCO of the Year Award.

"These awards were given to me because of the effort of each member of the Command Post," said Tech. Sgt. Speranzo. "I see the award more as a group award, rather than an individual."

Congratulations Command Post!



(photo by Senior Airman Tamara Cario)

The 911th Airlift Wing Command Post has won the 22nd Air Force Command and Control Command Post of the Year Award for the second year in a row. The Command Post staff shown above are listed from left to right, front to back: Staff Sgt. Rhonda Carter, Senior Airman Ryan Young, Senior Airman Sunshine Eger, Senior Airman Matthew Wolfe, Tech. Sgt. Milo Speranzo, 1st Lt. Laurie Lance, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Miller, Staff Sgt. Derek Becker.





# 2008 Wings Over Pittsburgh

The 2008 Wings Over Pittsburgh's 8th Annual Air Show is slated to commence May 10 and 11. This year the 911th Airlift Wing will honor the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force Reserve Command and the 250th anniversary of the city of Pittsburgh. This year's show also salutes mothers on Mother's Day. The weekend will be filled with amazing aerial performances from civilian and military performers, live music, static displays of various aircraft, amazing food, games and activities for children, and more. Everyone is welcome to come out to this free event. For more information please visit the Wings Over Pittsburgh website at [www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com](http://www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com)



# 2008 PERFORMERS

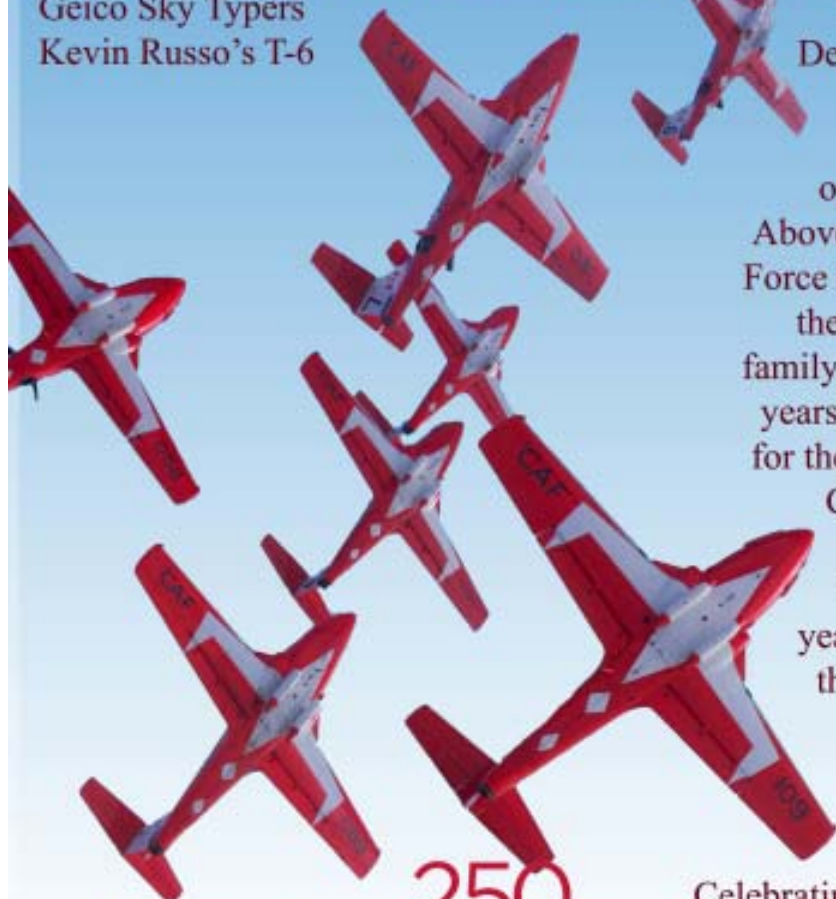
Canada's Precision Aerobatic Team  
 US Army Golden Knights  
 Sean Tucker's Oracle Challenger  
 John Klatt's ANG XTRA 300  
 Julie Clark's Chevron Mentor  
 United States Air Force Jet Car  
 United States Air Force F-22 Demo Team  
 United States Air Force F-16 Demo Team  
 United States Air Force P-51 Heritage Flight  
 United States Navy's Leap Frogs Parachute Jump Team  
 United States Navy Corsair Legacy Flight  
 United States Navy F/A-18 Demo Team  
 Geico Sky Typers  
 Kevin Russo's T-6



Above: The United States Air Force F-22 Demonstration Team performs precise aerial maneuvers. The performance showcases the unique abilities of the world's only operational fifth-generation fighter aircraft.

Above Middle: The 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve Command recognizes and honors the Air Force Reserve military, civilians, and family members who have contributed to the 60 years of success. Left: The featured performers for the Wings Over Pittsburgh Air Show are the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. The team has flown the CT-114 Tutor jet since 1971.

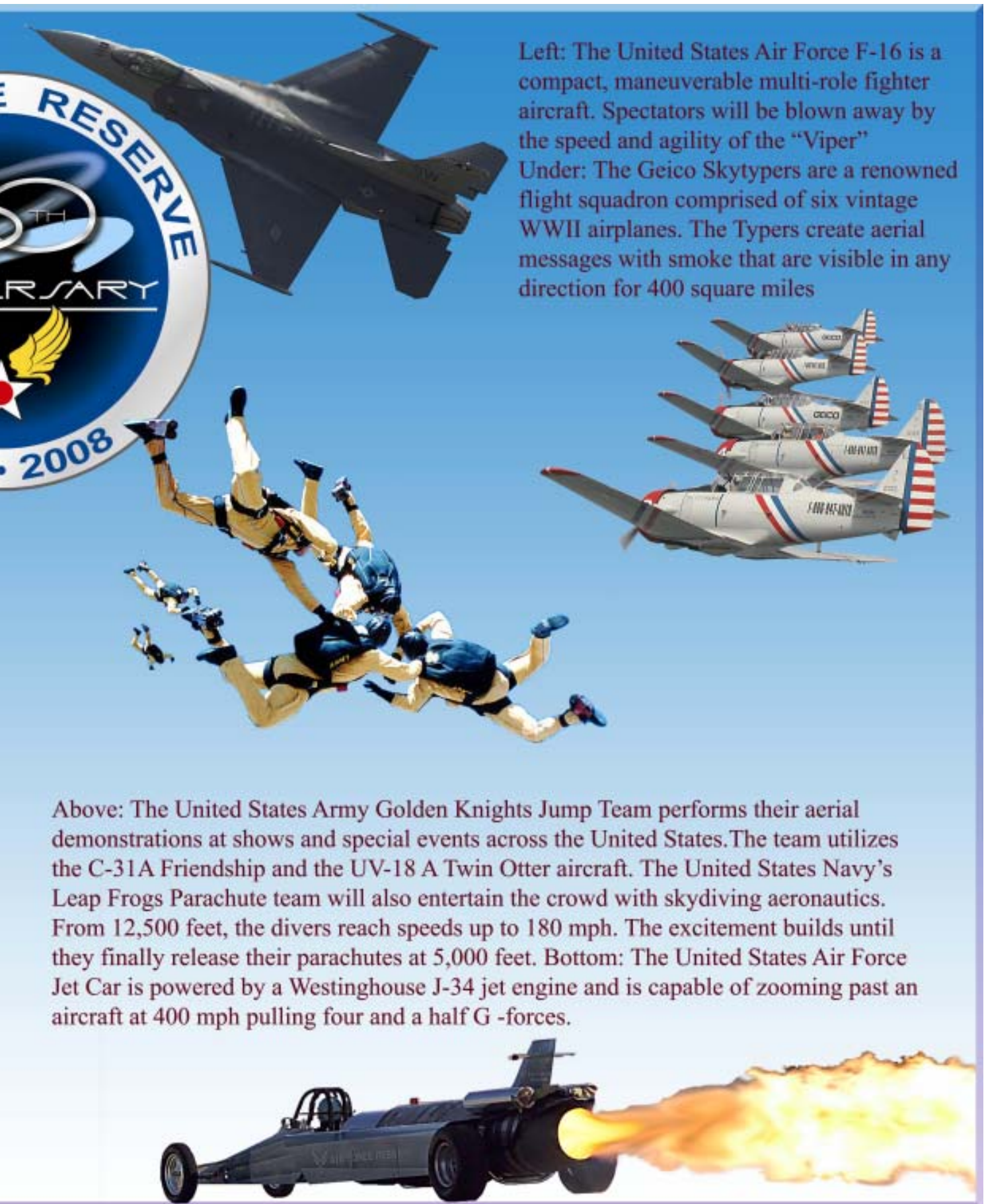
The Snowbirds perform in 60 air shows a year, yet this is their first year performing at the 911th Airlift Wing. The team entertains fans across North America with over 50 different formations.



**250**  
**pittsburgh**  
 imagine what you can do here.™

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the city of Pittsburgh, the 911th AW Pittsburgh history dates to the beginning of the Air Force Reserve Command over 60 years ago.





Left: The United States Air Force F-16 is a compact, maneuverable multi-role fighter aircraft. Spectators will be blown away by the speed and agility of the “Viper”  
Under: The Geico Skytypers are a renowned flight squadron comprised of six vintage WWII airplanes. The Typers create aerial messages with smoke that are visible in any direction for 400 square miles

Above: The United States Army Golden Knights Jump Team performs their aerial demonstrations at shows and special events across the United States. The team utilizes the C-31A Friendship and the UV-18 A Twin Otter aircraft. The United States Navy’s Leap Frogs Parachute team will also entertain the crowd with skydiving aeronautics. From 12,500 feet, the divers reach speeds up to 180 mph. The excitement builds until they finally release their parachutes at 5,000 feet. Bottom: The United States Air Force Jet Car is powered by a Westinghouse J-34 jet engine and is capable of zooming past an aircraft at 400 mph pulling four and a half G -forces.

## 2008 Wings Over Pittsburgh Static Displays

A-10	C-17	F/A-18	L-21	
AH-64	C-45	F/A 18FF-15E	Life Flight MD 900	
AV-8B	C-47	F-16	0-2	T-38C
B-17	C-54	FedEx Airbus 310	SH-60B	T-43
B-25	C-123K	HU-25	T-1	T-44
B-52	C-130H2	Intel L-21	T-6	T-45
C-2	EA-6B	KC-10	T-28	TH-57
C-5	E2-C	KC-135	T-37	WC-130

## PROMOTIONS



Airman

Terrell D. Hampton, MXS  
Devin M. Hughes, MXS



Tech. Sgt.

Shannon L. Hughes, MSF  
Raelin M. Foster, SVS  
Theodore N. Panagos, AMS  
Seth A. Zora, APS



Senior Airman

William K. Collins, MXS  
Mark L. Parker Jr., MXS  
Kayla M. Rebel, SFS  
Libby J. See, AES  
David L. Walker, MXS



Master Sgt.

Rard B. Perkins, AES  
Stephen D. Wilson, AMS



Staff Sgt.

Timothy L. Brunette, AS  
John P. Caligiuri, SFS  
Alexa Lee, SVS  
Kristin A. McGeorge, MXS  
Meghan D. Williams, MXS

Chief Master Sgt.  
Barry Bertocki, SFS

## aPril

### Pay Dates

Primary: April 15

Alternate: April 29



## May

### Pay Dates

Primary: May 13

Alternate: May 28



# Casualty assistance bids farewell to Chief

**Story by Senior Airman Lou Burton,  
Public Affairs**

Germaine L. Karcz, Chief Contact Representative of Casualty Assistance, is ending a 23-year career when she retires from the 911th Airlift Wing April 30, 2008.

Ms. Karcz began her career after her husband passed away and she needed full time employment. "I was working part-time at a gift shop at the airport when my husband died. I went to community college for typing so that I could pursue a job in government. I went downtown to the federal building to apply and began working at the club on base. When a position became available in Casualty Assistance, I took it," said Ms. Karcz. That was 17 years ago.

Currently Ms. Karcz is the sole Casualty Assistance Representative. "It's a lot of work. You have to know various laws and I cover five states. I work with the Primary Next of Kin to get them their benefits as quickly as possible," she said.

Not an easy task considering the complexity of the law and variety of circumstances. "Every death is different. I get professionally attached to each case. I am there for the families when they need guidance. I don't close the file until they receive their benefits," said Ms. Karcz.

Knowledge of the intricacies of laws each case presents involved in the casualty office presents a problem for finding a replacement for Ms. Karcz. "There are supposed to be two people in the office, but right now it's just me. We are working on getting a replacement, but it is hard because you have to know the laws. I don't know the exact codes, but I do know the law from working with it for so long," said Ms. Karcz.



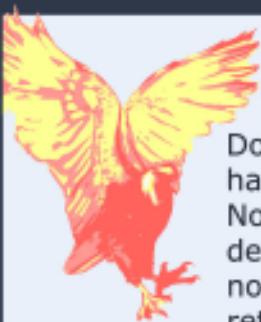
(photo by Senior Airman Lou Burton)

**Germaine L. Karcz has served as a federal employee for more than 23 years, 17 of which spent working in the Casualty Assistance Office at the 911th. Mrs. Karcz still plans on working on base, volunteering her time with the retired activities office.**

The position takes a good understanding of the law, the ability to research, administrative skills, and most importantly a sympathetic ear.

"I've trained a couple people to help out after I leave, but I am still hoping they find a permanent replacement," said Ms. Karcz.

With the freedom of retirement, Ms. Karcz has various plans. "I'm going to take a rest, maybe travel some more, and do some charity. I'm going to work a couple days a week here on base with the retired activities office. It's something I enjoyed doing when the program fell under casualty assistance until about five years ago," said Ms. Karcz.



## 911th Airlift Wing Hall of Fame Induction

Do you know a separated or retired officer, enlisted or civilian who has been a strong supporter of the 911th Airlift Wing enlisted force? Now is your chance to show your appreciation by nominating the deserving Airman to be inducted into the 911th AW Hall of Fame. The nominee may be active during the nomination phase, but must be retired or separated by the 2008 November Hall of Fame induction. Nominations may be submitted by any current, separated or retired officer, enlisted or civilian employee of the 911th AW. Submit the name and brief description of the nominee in writing. Include dates and what the individual did for the enlisted force to the 911th AW Command Chief. Nominations must be submitted by the May UTA.



(photos by Senior Airman Lou Burton)

### Loadmasters Readiness

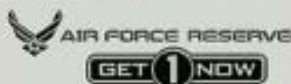
(Left) Master Sgt. Mark T. Weber, 758th Airlift Squadron Loadmaster, pulls a crate aboard the C-130 during the March unit training assembly to keep up with readiness training. The loadmaster position offers a variety of temporary duty assignments. "My favorite part of being a loadmaster is flying to different locations and the camaraderie with other loadmasters," said Master Sgt. Weber. Senior Airman Jason V. Strack (Right), 758th AS

Loadmaster, pushes a crate aboard a C-130 simulating the shipment of possible equipment that would be dropped into combat zones. Loadmaster is a bonus position that offers \$15,000 for six years and \$7,500 for three years. Loadmasters provide critical support by supervising the loading and unloading of cargo, vehicles and people onto the aircraft. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this position, call (412)474-8555.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO

911TH COMMAND POST

Awarded the 22nd Air Force Command  
and Control Command Post  
of the Year award

**Tech. Sgt. Milo Speranzo**

*Air Force Reserve Command,  
Command and Control Noncommis-  
sioned Officer of the Year Award*

**Senior Airman Matthew Wolfe**

*Air Force Reserve Command,  
Command and Control Airman  
of the Year Award*



# NEWS BRIEFS

## US Air Cuts Baggage Fee for Military

US Airways has agreed to amend their new checked baggage policy regarding the \$25 fee for a second checked bag. Military personnel on orders with a valid ID will be exempt from this charge. US Airways will no longer require military personnel to be in uniform in order to qualify for the exemption. View the complete US Airways baggage policy at <http://www.usairways.com/awa/content/traveltools/baggage/baggagepolicies.aspx>

## Postal Rates Slated to Increase

The United States Postal Service may increase first class postage stamp rates one cent in May. To combat the rate increase, the US Post Office offers a non-denominated first class stamp that can be purchased at the current postal rate and will not need an adjustment stamp after the rate increase.

## Military Kids get Scholarships for Activities

*Our Military Kids* is a program that supports military service members fund extracurricular activities for their children. OMK provides youth grades, K-12 of a deployed or severely injured service member, an opportunity to receive a grant for up to \$500 to participate in an extracurricular activity. Priority is given to service members from Virginia National Guard and Reserve; however, grant requests will be considered from youth of Guard and Reservists nationwide. Grant requests for tutoring will be given priority. All requests are dependent on available funding. OMK requires a Commander's signature or a copy of orders to verify deployment. All grants are generally processed within

two weeks and are paid directly to the service provider, not to individuals. For an application and more information please visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

*Kids Serve 2*, a non-profit program of Salute our Services, Inc., is offering financial grants up to \$500 to allow military children, grades K-12, the opportunity to maintain extracurricular activities during deployments. Funds received from KS2 must be used for the purpose stated on the application and verification of deployment is required. For an application and more information please visit [www.saluteourservices.org/kidsservetoo.htm](http://www.saluteourservices.org/kidsservetoo.htm).

## Tuition Reimbursement Rates

Undergraduate Degree: Basic benefit offers 100 percent not to exceed \$250.00 per semester hour or \$166.66 per quarter hour, with a maximum cumulative benefit of \$4,500.00, per member, per fiscal year.

Master's Degree: The basic benefit offers 75 percent not to exceed \$187.50 per semester hour or \$125.00 per quarter hour with a maximum cumulative benefit of \$4,500.00, per member, per fiscal year. AFRC Students are authorized reserve TA for a "civilian" Master's Degree if their only Master's Degree was awarded due to completion of a degree-granting PME course (such as Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, etc).

Students who want to take graduate degree courses after completion of an undergraduate program during the same FY, and have not capped under the undergraduate program, will only have a maximum cumulative benefit of \$4,500 between the two programs.



## Pittsburgh Key Spouse Group

*Providing helpful information and support to the families of the 911th members through social events, websites, newsletters, and various other resources.*

All military families are invited to visit the KSG table located at the Airman & Family Readiness Tent during the Air Show, May 10 & 11. KSG meetings are held the Saturday of the UTA at 5p.m. Please join us at the next meeting May 3 at 5p.m. at the Family Support Conference Room in Building 300. We will be celebrating National Scrapbooking Day. If you scrapbook or would like to give it a try, come on out and bring your own supplies. If you aren't into scrapbooking, come out anyway, meet other spouses and just chat. Did you know that our fitness center has a masseuse? How would you like to give them a try on us? Help design a new patch/logo for the Pittsburgh Key Spouse Group. If your design is chosen you win a free one hour massage. All entries must be submitted by June 1 and a winner will be selected by June 15. For more information, visit [www.pittkeyspouse.com](http://www.pittkeyspouse.com).

# 2008 Wings Over Pittsburgh



May 10 & 11

[www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com](http://www.wingsoverpittsburgh.com)

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